

38 Unusual words

English has many strange sounds and unusual words. Using words that are less ordinary, such as 'flabbergasted', add impact and colour to your writing, but choose carefully!



STARTING OFF

Use your Oxford dictionaries to work out whether the following statements are true or false.

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| 1. Topsy-turvy means upside-down or muddled. | T / F |
| 2. Higgledy-piggledy is another way of saying completely jumbled up. | T / F |
| 3. The phrase <i>hoi polloi</i> meaning 'the masses' comes from Latin. | T / F |
| 4. A bladderwrack is an instrument of torture. | T / F |
| 5. Gemsbok and grysbok are types of antelope. | T / F |
| 6. Boomslang is a type of language spoken by rich people. | T / F |
| 7. A cleriheo is a short poem, referring to a famous person in the first line. | T / F |
| 8. Being lackadaisical means not being dressed correctly, particularly at functions like weddings. | T / F |
| 9. An olfactory is a place where you make perfumes, cosmetics, and aromatic oils. | T / F |
| 10. To wassail is to make merry and drink a lot of alcohol. | T / F |

Circle your answer



MOVING ON

Work with a partner. Each choose a word from those given below. Write its meaning using your dictionary, and make up two false meanings for it. Read out the word and the meanings to your partner. Can they guess the correct definition for each word?

